

The Necklace

— Guy De Maupassant



OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"She suffered incessantly, feeling herself born for all delicacies and luxuries. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the shabby walls and the worn chairs. All these things tortured and angered her. When she seated herself for dinner opposite her husband who uncovered the tureen with a delighted air, saying, 'Oh! the good potpie! I know nothing better than that...,' she would think of elegant dinners of shining silver; she thought of the exquisite food served in marvellous dishes. She had neither frocks nor jewels, nothing. And she loved only those things. She had a rich friend, a schoolmate at the convent, who she did not like to visit- she suffered so much when she returned. She wept for whole days from despair and disappointment."

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]


- (A) Choose the option that list the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract:

- (1) Matilda was very pleased with her life.
- (2) Matilda envied her friend for being well-off.
- (3) M. Loisel didn't appreciate what Matilda cooked.
- (4) Matilda despised the fact that she lived a life of poverty.
- (5) Matilda never felt troubled, though she desired a luxurious life.
- (6) Matilda thought of grand dinners and silverware sitting at the dinner table.
- (7) Matilda felt depressed after visiting her friend.

- (a) (1), (3) & (6) (b) (3), (5) & (7)
- (c) (1), (3) & (5) (d) (2), (4) & (7)

(B) Which word does 'delicacies' NOT correspond to?

- (a) etherealness (b) elegance
(c) exquisiteness (d) robustness

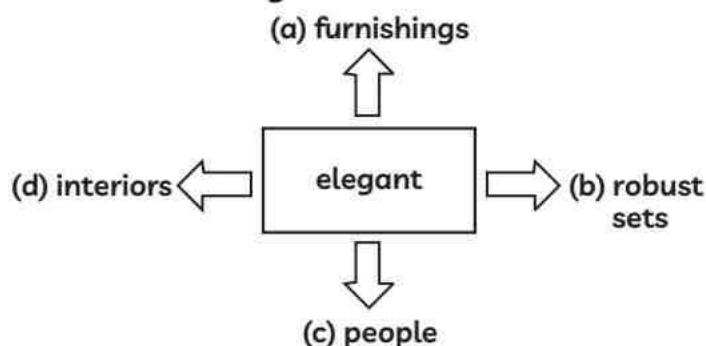
(C)  Choose the answer that lists the correct option of what a 'tureen' is?



(D) Choose the characteristic displayed by M. Loisel in the extract:

- (a) conceited (b) contended
(c) appeased (d) subdued

(E) The extract uses the phrase 'elegant dinners'. Which of the following expressions is incorrect with respect to the word 'elegant'?



Ans. (A) (c) (1), (3) & (5)

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that Matilda felt 'tortured and angered' as she was born into a poor family and married to a simple clerk. Her husband loved the food cooked by her as he said "Oh! the good potpie! I know nothing better than that...". Also, Matilda felt 'despair and disappointment.' So, options (1), (3) and (5) are not true. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(B) (d) robustness

Explanation: The term 'robustness' means strong enough to handle adversities. However, 'delicacies' are something very fragile that can't withstand the adversity. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

(D) (b) contended

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that Loisel was not (a) conceited as he wasn't proud of himself. He wasn't (c) appeased as he had no desire to satisfy. Also, he wasn't (d) subdued as he wasn't depressed. He was a happy and satisfied person. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(E) (b) robust sets

Explanation: 'Elegant dinners' would have elegant (a) furnishings, (c) people and (d)

interiors while robust sets aren't elegant or delicate. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

She was not convinced. "No", she replied, "there is nothing more humiliating than to have a shabby air in the midst of rich women." Then her husband cried out, "How stupid we are! Go and find your friend Mme Forestier and ask her to lend you her jewels." She uttered a cry of joy. "It is true!" she said. "I had not thought of that." The next day she took herself to her friend's house and related her story of distress. Mme Forestier went to her closet, took out a large jewel-case, brought it, opened it, and said, "Choose, my dear." She saw at first some bracelets, then a collar of pearls, then a Venetian cross of gold and jewels of admirable workmanship. She tried the jewels before the glass, hesitated, but could neither decide to take them nor leave them. Then she asked, "Have you nothing more?"

(A) Matilda wasn't 'convinced' for:


- (a) asking some jewellery from her friend.
(b) wearing natural flowers to the ball.
(c) attending the ball.
(d) wearing the new gown.

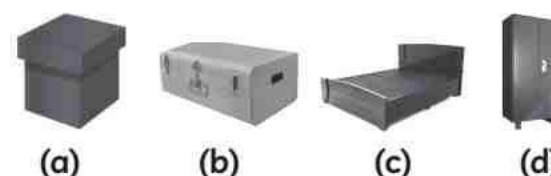
(B) For Matilda, there was nothing more humiliating than:

- (a) looking poor among the rich women.
(b) attending the party with a simple clerk.
(c) going to the ball wearing no jewels.
(d) eating without table manners.

(C) "I had not thought of that." What had Matilda not thought of?

- (a) to wear natural flowers to the ball
(b) to wear her mother's jewellery that she had
(c) to borrow jewels from her friend
(d) to not wear any jewellery

(D)  Which of the following represents 'closet'.



(E) Pick out the word that is NOT similar to 'shabby':

- (a) poor (b) elegant
(c) cheap (d) inferior

Ans. (A) (b) wearing natural flowers to the ball.

Explanation: Matilda wasn't 'convinced' when her husband suggested her to wear natural flowers to the party on having no jewels to wear. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(B) (a) looking poor among the rich women.

Explanation: Matilda believed that "there is nothing more humiliating than to have a shabby air in the midst of rich women." Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(C) (c) to borrow jewels from her friend

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that Loisel suggested Matilda to borrow some jewels from her friend Mrs. Frostier. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(E) (b) elegant

Explanation: 'Shabby' means poor-looking and of inferior quality. Options (a), (c) and (d) are similar to shabby while (b) elegant means classy. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

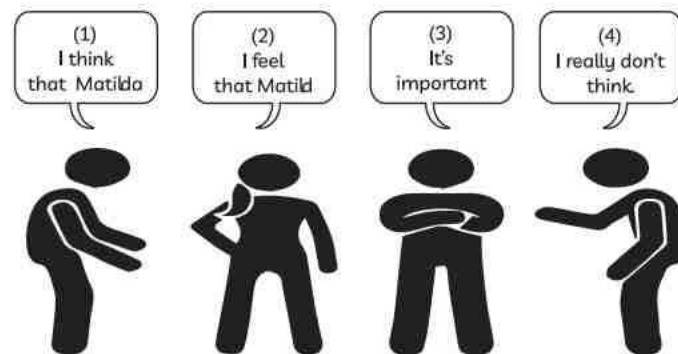
3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, 'What is the matter? What is the matter?' By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, 'Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I.' He was grieved, but answered, 'Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for other occasions, something very simple?' She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that she could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk."

(A) ② What does 'economical clerk' indicate?

- (a) M. Loisel was a spendthrift even though he earned a lot.
- (b) M. Loisel was thrifty as he had a meagre income.
- (c) M. Loisel calculated money all the time as he was a clerk.
- (d) M. Loisel was stingy about money and didn't spend it.

(B) Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s (F) and opinion/s (O) of the people below:



(a) F-(1), (2) and O-(3), (4)

(b) F-(3) and O-(1), (2), (4)

(c) F-(2), (4) and O-(1), (3)

(d) F-(2), (3), (4) and O-(1)

(C) Pick the correct set that matches with the feelings of the highlighted words related to the characters:

Matilda: By a violent effort, she had controlled...

M. Loisel: He was grieved....

- (a) Matilda felt aggressive; M. Loisel was troubled
- (b) Matilda was irritated; M. Loisel was upset and cried
- (c) Matilda tried extremely hard; M. Loisel felt intense sorrow
- (d) Matilda was quite calm; M. Loisel's heart ached for love

(D) M. Loisel was astonished seeing his wife's reaction. He writes a diary entry that night. Complete the entry with the missing words, by choosing the correct option.

11 January, Monday 9.00 pm
I thought Matilda would be (i) seeing the invitation in my hand. However, her reaction has left me (ii) I don't know how I would be able to (iii) a new dress for her.

- (a) (i) vexed (ii) disturbed (iii) bring
- (b) (i) elated (ii) disturbed (iii) afford
- (c) (i) keen (ii) depressed (iii) bring
- (d) (i) elated (ii) distressed (iii) afford

(E) Choose the option that gives the most appropriate response to the statement made by the speaker:

M. Loisel over-pampered his wife and readily accepted her demands.



- (a) I think Matilda was being unreasonable and unrealistic.
- (b) I feel that M Loisel loved Matilda and wanted her to be happy.
- (c) In my opinion M. Loisel was being too harsh with Matilda.
- (d) I feel that M. Loisel should not have brought the invite home.

Ans. (B) (b) F-(3) and O-(1), (2), (4)

Explanation: Options (1), (2) and (4) have words like "I think/don't think" and "I feel" that states the opinion of a person while (3) is stating a fact. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(C) (c) Matilda tried extremely hard; M. Loisel felt intense sorrow

Explanation: The phrase 'violent effort' refers to the extreme hard effort done by Matilda and 'grieved' means to be deeply sorrowful. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(D) (d) (i) elated (ii) distressed (iii) afford

Explanation: Matilda was supposed to be 'happy' to receive the invitation, however, she was sad which left Loisel 'depressed' and he thought how he could 'afford' a new dress for her. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

(E) (b) I feel that M. Loisel loved Matilda and wanted her to be happy.

Explanation: Loisel adored his wife Matilda a lot. He wanted to make her happy by accepting her demands in whatever way he could. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) [2 marks]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

4. Mme Loisel now knew the horrible life of necessity. Do you think Mme Loisel accepted this change willingly? Give two reasons in support of your answer.

Ans. Yes, after losing the necklace and seeing her husband taking all the responsibility alone to compensate for the loss, Matilda willingly accepted her fate. She cut down on her expenses and did away with her maid. She did all the household chores herself.

5. Why was Matilda unhappy in her early married life? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Matilda was married to a simple clerk who earned a moderate income. She was unhappy in her early married life because she had rich dreams and lavish desires which her middle-class husband couldn't fulfill.

6. Why was Madame Frostier shocked to meet Matilda after ten years?

7. Mention two things you would have done, other than what M. Loisel did, to help resolve the problem of the lost necklace.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. I would have written the truth behind losing the necklace, accepted my fault and apologized to Madame Frostier. I would have also thought of giving her another necklace as a gift which I could afford.

8. Why did Matilda leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character?

[CBSE 2018]

Ans. Matilda left the ball in a hurry because she didn't want to face the other women as she had to cover herself in a modest wrap whereas the other women were wrapping themselves in rich furs. This shows that Matilda was a lady full of pretence. She was ashamed to accept her reality.

9. Why do you think M. Loisel was a loving husband? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. M. Loisel was a loving husband. He adored his wife a lot. He wanted to see Matilda happy and made every effort to cheer her up. He also gave her four hundred francs that he had saved for himself to buy a hunting gun, to Matilda to buy a new dress.

10. Mention one of the most pleasurable things, according to you, that money can't buy and support your choice with an appropriate reason.

Ans. The most pleasurable thing that money can't buy is satisfaction. A person can earn loads of money and still be unsatisfied and unhappy. There might be a lack of understanding or love between spouses which money can't buy.

11. How did M. Loisel purchase the new necklace?

Ans. M. Loisel paid for the new necklace by taking a debt and contributing his eighteen thousand francs that he inherited from his father.

12. ② Describe Mme Loisel's success at the ball.

13. Imagine Matilda got to know that M. Loisel had given her four hundred francs, which he had saved to buy a gun. How do you think she would have reacted?

Ans. I think if Matilda would have known that Loisel had given her four hundred francs, she would still have spent that amount on buying herself a rich dress. Nothing other than luxury was precious to Matilda.

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) [3 marks]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

14. Mme Forestier writes a diary entry after having met Matilda, knowing the truth and seeing the transformation in her friend. Write a short diary entry as Mme Forestier about your encounter and how you felt. You may begin like this.

20th July, Monday 9:00 pm

I couldn't recognise Matilda at all. I wish she had told me the truth about the necklace.

Ans. 20th July, Monday 9:00 pm
I couldn't recognise Matilda at all. I wish she had told me the truth about the necklace. I can't even imagine what hardships Matilda had to face over these ten years that her appearance changed drastically. I feel guilty of the fact that Matilda and her husband had to live a life of extreme poverty for a necklace that wasn't more than five hundred francs. Only if Matilda had told me the truth of losing the necklace, she wouldn't have to go through this adversity.

15. Matilda's husband excitedly brought home an invitation one evening. Explain.

Ans. One evening, Matilda's husband brought home an invitation for both of them to attend a party at a minister's house. He was elated because he was one of the few clerks to get an invitation and also because he thought Matilda would be thrilled to get a chance to experience a lavish ball.

16. Imagine you're one of the columnists in a magazine. People write to you about their issues, seeking your advice.

Matilda writes to you about the guilt she feels for having lost a necklace and how it changed the course of her life and her husband's. What would be your advice to her?

Ans. I would advise Matilda to bring a sense of acceptance in her. Acceptance of reality is very important to be happy and satisfied in life. Once a person accepts who she/he is and all the things that life offers her/him, nobody can drag her/him down. Matilda needed to accept the fact that she was destined to be born in a poor family and get married to a simple clerk who couldn't afford any riches.

17. ② Why did Matilda not like to visit her rich friend?

18. Matilda goes home after meeting Mme Forestier after ten years and shares the fact with M. Loisel that the necklace was a false one. Write the dialogue between Matilda and M. Loisel

Matilda: I don't know how to tell you this but I met Mme Forestier today and she told me that her necklace was

M. Loisel: What! I can't believe my ears. That huge debt was for nothing!

Matilda:

M. Loisel:

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

Ans. Matilda: I don't know how to tell you this but I met Mme Forestier today and she told me that her necklace was a fake one. It was just an imitation necklace worth around five hundred francs.

M. Loisel: What! I can't believe my ears. That huge debt was for nothing!

Matilda: Yes dear. I couldn't believe it too when she told me this. She herself was shocked to look at me and my drastically changed appearance. She couldn't even recognize me.

M. Loisel: Alas! In all this struggle, my beautiful wife lost her charm and I lost all my savings.

19. How did M. Loisel try to make his wife happy?

Ans. M. Loisel had saved four hundred francs to buy a gun to join some hunting parties the next

summer. The gun was to be used when he and his friends went to shoot larks. However, he tried to make his wife happy by offering to give her the saved four hundred francs to buy an elegant dress.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

20. Read the following statement.

"If you tell the truth it becomes a part of your past. If you tell a lie, it becomes a part of your future."

How does Matilda's life change after she tells a lie about the necklace? Explain in the light of the statement given above and with the help of examples from the text.

[Delhi Gov. 2021]

Ans. Matilda's life underwent a drastic change after she told a lie about the necklace to Mme Frostier. When Matilda lost the necklace, she lied to her friend that the clasp of the necklace was broken accidentally and she had to get it repaired. So, this way she got some time to replace the necklace by buying a new one that looked exactly like the lost one. However, her lie became a part of her future struggles and poverty as she and her husband had to pay a sum of sixty-thousand francs. The couple had to change their lodgings, rent room at the attics and cut down on their expenses and domestic help. They were left with no savings at all and had to work hard to live an economic life. Had she told the truth to Mme Frostier, she would have known that the necklace was a cheap imitation worth five hundred francs. The truth would have saved her future.

21. Read the extracts given below and compare the characters on their nature of gratitude towards life.

(A) *her husband who uncovered the tureen with a delighted air, saying, "Oh! the good potpie!*

I know nothing better than that..."

(B) *she would think of elegant dinners, of shining silver; she thought of the exquisite food served in marvelous dishes. She had neither frocks nor jewels, nothing. And she loved only those things.*

Ans. The characters in the extracts are M. Loisel and Matilda who had a very different approach towards life.

(A) M. Loisel was a happy and self-content man. Although he was just a middle-class clerk in Board of Education, he was

satisfied with what life had offered him. He was grateful to God for all the ordinary things that he had. He didn't have any desire or urge to lead an exquisite lifestyle. He accepted his reality well and was not ashamed to be who he was.

(B) Matilda was an unhappy and dissatisfied lady. Though she was born in a poor family, she believed she deserved all the luxuries and riches of life. She never accepted her reality and was always disheartened at what life had to offer her. She wasn't grateful to God for anything in life. Instead, she always complained to have received nothing from her destiny. She had big desires which were full of greed and riches. She felt ashamed of her poor reality.

22. M. Loisel was a loving husband. He tried every method of finding the necklace but to no avail. He didn't blame Matilda for the loss even after that.

Imagine yourself as the writer of the story "The Necklace" and write an imaginary conversation between M. Loisel and Matilda if Loisel gets angry on her at her carelessness for losing the necklace.

Ans. Matilda: (tensed) Where is my necklace? Oh no! I can't find it. I have lost it somewhere.

M. Loisel: (screaming) What do you mean Matilda? How can you lose such an expensive diamond necklace? Don't you know it's borrowed and we have to return it?

Matilda: I am sorry. I have no idea when this happened. I was wearing it the entire time of the party. What should we do now?

M. Loisel: What a careless behavior! You are so immature and irresponsible. You couldn't even handle a necklace.

Matilda: I am really sorry Loisel. Please don't panic. I hope it must be somewhere in the party hall.

M. Loisel: I am going to check it everywhere. Start taking care of things a bit Matilda!

23. One of your friends has to attend a class party at his / her school and wants to purchase the most expensive clothes and shows. He/ She feels that this would make him/ her stand out in the crowd.

You receive a call from your friend seeking advice on this matter. Write down that telephonic conversation between your friend and yourself.

You may begin this way:

Friend: Hey, I want an honest opinion from you. Will you please help me?

You:

Friend: So, there's this class party I have to attend. It's a big deal!

You:

Ans. Friend: Hey, I want an honest opinion from you. Will you please help me?

You: Hey, Sure. Tell me what is it?

Friend: So, there's this class party I have to attend. It's a big deal! Now I want you to tell me that what I should buy so that I may stand out in the crowd.

You: Okay. Look...I think that to stand out in the crowd, you need to be yourself. Every person would look the same in similar type of fashion that they would carry in the party. However, if you will adhere to your personality, to who you are and will go in something that suits your personality rather than going with the trend, I am sure you will rock it.

Friend: Hey thanks. I haven't thought about it. You are right. I should wear what suits me best. I think I have something with me already that would look the best on me. Bye.

24. ② **Matilda used to compare her poverty with the luxuries of her rich friends. She didn't like to visit her friends as that would leave her depressed.**

Imagine yourself as the writer of the story "The Necklace" and write an imaginary conversation between Matilda and her husband if Matilda demands one of the things that she saw at her rich friend's place.

25. **Read the following quote.**

"We are too involved in materialistic things, and they don't satisfy us. The loving

relationships we have, the universe around us, we take these things for granted."

—Mitch Albom

Matilda was never satisfied with her life and desired more. The given quote reflects her character. Justify.

Ans. Matilda was never satisfied with her life and always desired more. She was a very materialistic lady. She just loved all things material and had very less emotions. The fact that she had such a loving and caring husband with whom she had a good, simple life wasn't sufficient for her. She was greedy and full of lavish desires even when she knew she had no means to fulfill them. She never accepted her poor reality and was never grateful for all the good things that she had in her life. She was never content or satisfied with what life had to offer her. She took her husband's love, her blessed life for granted. Her greedy and dissatisfied nature led both of them to live a miserable life full of extreme poverty.

26. **Compare Matilda's life before and after the fateful dinner party.**

Ans. Before the dinner party, Matilda led a frugal life as they did not have too much money and hence, had no luxuries. However, they did have a maid and other basic facilities. She dreamt of all the extravagances of life and was unhappy as she did not lead a luxurious life. But they could still manage to live a simple peaceful life was full of love and care.

After the dinner party, Matilda lost the necklace and her husband had to borrow large amounts of money to repay the loans they had taken to replace the lost necklace with a new one. Matilda had to compensate for the loss by letting go of the maid, doing all chores herself and having no savings to fall back on. She, led a hard and harsh life that made her look much worn out and shabby.